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amnesty international

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 21/07/89
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UA 194/89 Fear of Ill-Treatment **20 June 1989**

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR: **MARCELINO, 36**
Victor DA COSTA, 35
Mario CAEIRO
Francisco BOBONARO, 30
Zito PEREIRA, 28
Herminio DA COSTA ALVES
Francisco REGO DA OLIVEIRA, 35
Abel DE ARAUJO
Antonio DA SILVA, 21
Marito MARCARIO, 39
Nuno CORVELA DE ANDRADE, 28
plus approximately 40 people in Baucau and possibly others

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The eleven people named above were reportedly arrested in Dili, East Timor, between 15 and 29 May 1989. It is believed that they have been arrested on suspicion of association with the East Timorese resistance movement, Fretilin (Frente Revolucionario de Timor Leste). Like Manuel Fatima Guterres, detained in Dili on 25 May 1989 (UA 163/89, ASA 21/05/89, 6 June), the whereabouts of the 11 are not known.

Amnesty International has also received reports that between 40 and 50 people have been detained by the Indonesian military in Baucau, East Timor, since early May 1989. According to reports, those arrested have included suspected supporters of the resistance and persons alleged to have links with local Catholic Church figures critical of Indonesia's human rights record in East Timor. Those detained are thought to be held at a new detention centre near Baucau.

In view of the consistent pattern of human rights violations in East Timor over the last 13 years, and considering the reports of continued violations since October 1988, Amnesty International believes that people detained on suspicion of having links with Fretilin, or with other organizations and individuals critical of the Indonesian Government, may be in grave danger of ill-treatment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (Note to translators: the following background paragraphs are identical to those in UA 193/89 of 19 June, and only slightly different to those in UA 163/89, ASA 21/05/89, 6 June.)

Fretilin has been waging a guerrilla war for independence since 1975, when Indonesian forces invaded East Timor in the aftermath of Portugal's withdrawal from its former colony. Nearly all victims of human rights violations in East Timor over the past 13 years of de facto Indonesian rule in the territory are people who have been accused, either formally or informally, of association with Fretilin. Moreover, family members of suspected Fretilin supporters, including children and the elderly, have been the victims of human rights abuses, including extrajudicial execution, by elements of the armed forces.

In spite of the recently announced "opening" of East Timor, Amnesty International has continued to receive reports of grave human rights violations in the territory. In October and November 1988, an estimated 3,000 people were reportedly detained in connection with the visit of Indonesian President Suharto. Although most of those detained were subsequently released, at least 30 people and possibly many more remained in detention several months later. Eight people detained at the time of the mass arrests were tried and convicted of belonging to an "illegal organization", the Yayasan Santo Antonio, an off-shoot of the Catholic Church in East Timor. They were scheduled for release within a few months of their trials in February and March 1989. Amnesty International believes that they may have been prisoners of conscience, detained for the non-violent expression of their religious and political beliefs.

Telephone 01-833 1771 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience.* It works for *fair and prompt trials* for *all political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners.*

In a Pastoral Note dated 5 December 1988, East Timorese Bishop Msgr. Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo (Apostolic Administrator of Dili and Titular Bishop of Lorium), claimed that torture and ill-treatment at the time of the arrests had been widespread. He condemned as "barbaric" the systematic use of torture by Indonesian authorities in East Timor and decried the "lying propaganda according to which abuses of human rights do not exist..." there. On 6 February 1989, Bishop Belo wrote to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar, calling upon him to "...initiate in East Timor a more normal and democratic process of decolonization ... by means of a referendum." The people of East Timor, he wrote, had yet to be consulted on their future; "Meanwhile, we are dying as a people and as a nation." In other letters, including one to the Apostolic Nuncio in Jakarta, dated 16 February 1989, Bishop Belo alluded to and gave details of grave human rights violations including torture, ill-treatment and two cases of extrajudicial execution allegedly committed by members of the Indonesia armed forces in recent months.

In January 1989, the Governor of East Timor, Mario Carrascalao, reportedly admitted that human rights abuses continue to occur in the territory. According to one source, the Governor said: "It happens, there are still violations of human rights. But they are not authorized. If the army violates human rights I tell the military commander." (Toronto Star, 5 February 1989).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/airmail letters:

- expressing concern and seeking clarification about reports of the arrest in Dili of 11 people and in Baucau of approximately 40 people in May 1989;
- urging that their whereabouts be made known and seeking assurances that their safety will be guaranteed while in custody;
- calling on Governor Mario Carrascalao to uphold his reported aim of holding to account those military officers who authorize or carry out human rights abuses;
- whilst welcoming news of the "opening" of East Timor in January 1989, nonetheless expressing concern about renewed reports of human rights violations in the territory since the arrests of October and November 1988.

APPEALS TO:

General Try Sutrisno
Pangab
Markas Besar ABRI
Cilangkap
East Jakarta, Indonesia

(Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces)

Telegrams: Gen. Sutrisno, Markas Besar ABRI, Jakarta, Indonesia

Ir. Mario Viegas Carrascalao
Gubernur KDH Tk. 1 Timor Timur
Jl. Inpantai D. Hendrikue Dili
East Timor

(Governor of East Timor)

Telegrams: Gubernur Carrascalao, Dili, East Timor

May. Jen. Sintong Panjaitan
Pangdam IX Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX Udayana
Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Telegrams: May. Jen. Sintong Panjaitan, Pangdam IX, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

COPIES TO:

Msgr. Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, SDP
Keuskupan Dili
Camara Eclesiastica, Chancelaria
Secretaria Episcopal
Jl. Gov. Alves Aldeia 25
Dili, East Timor

(Apostolic Administrator of Dili, Titular Bishop of Lorium
Salutation: Ex.mo e Reverendissimo)

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 August 1989.

- Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.
- Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

  Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

  Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

  Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

- The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.
- Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.
- In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.
- Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.